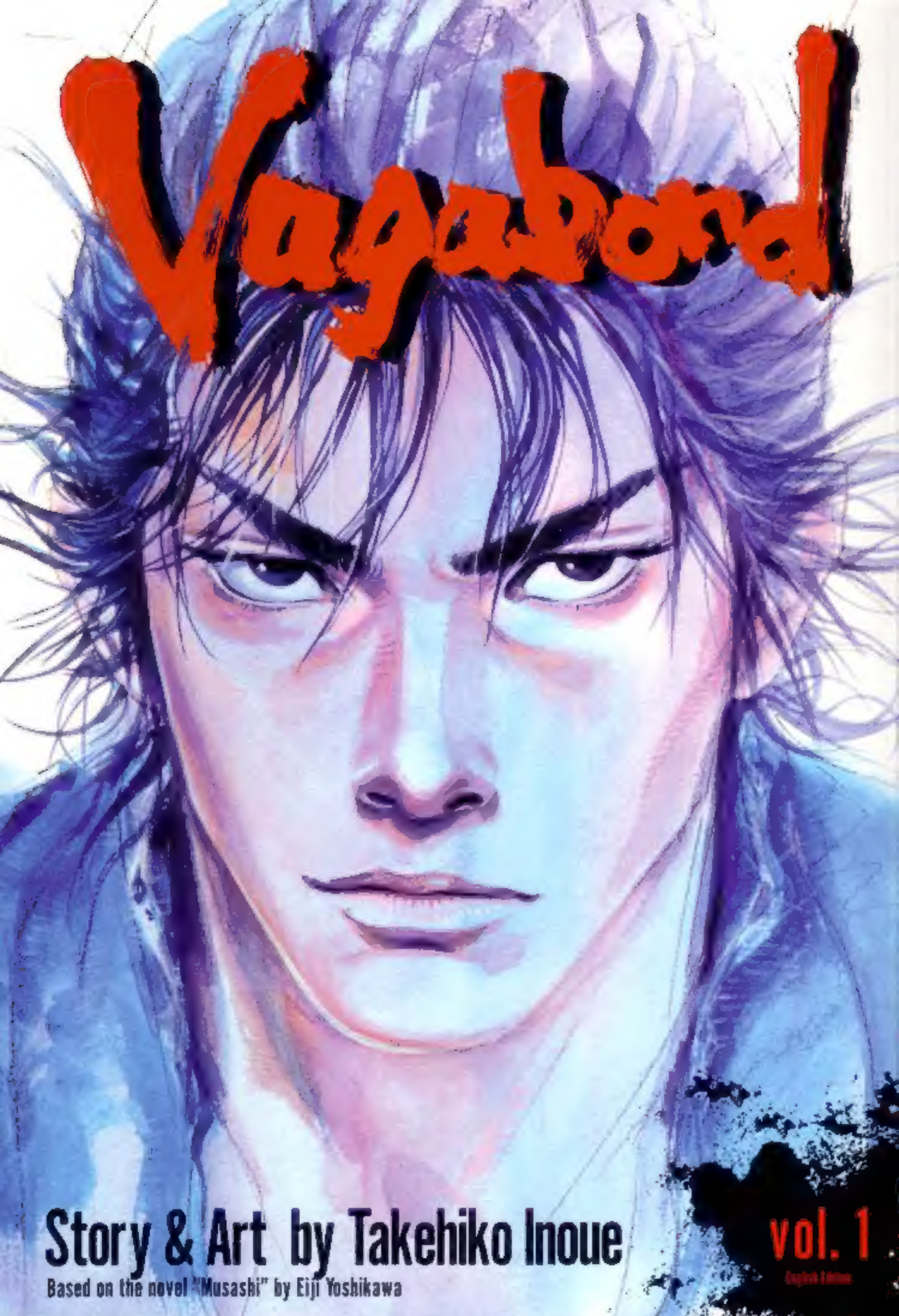
Vagabond



Story & Art by Takehiko Inoue

Based on the novel "Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa

vol. 1

English Edition

Vagabond Vol. 1
This graphic novel contains ***Vagabond*** monthly comics #1 and #2 in their entirety and the first half of ***Vagabond*** monthly #3.

Story & Art by
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Based on the novel "Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa

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Editor/Andy Nakatani

Managing Editor/Annette Roman
Director of Sales and Marketing/Dallas Middaugh
Editor-in-Chief/Hyoe Narita
Publisher/Seiji Horibuchi

Vagabond
© 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002 I.T. Planning, Inc.

Originally published in Japan in 1999 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
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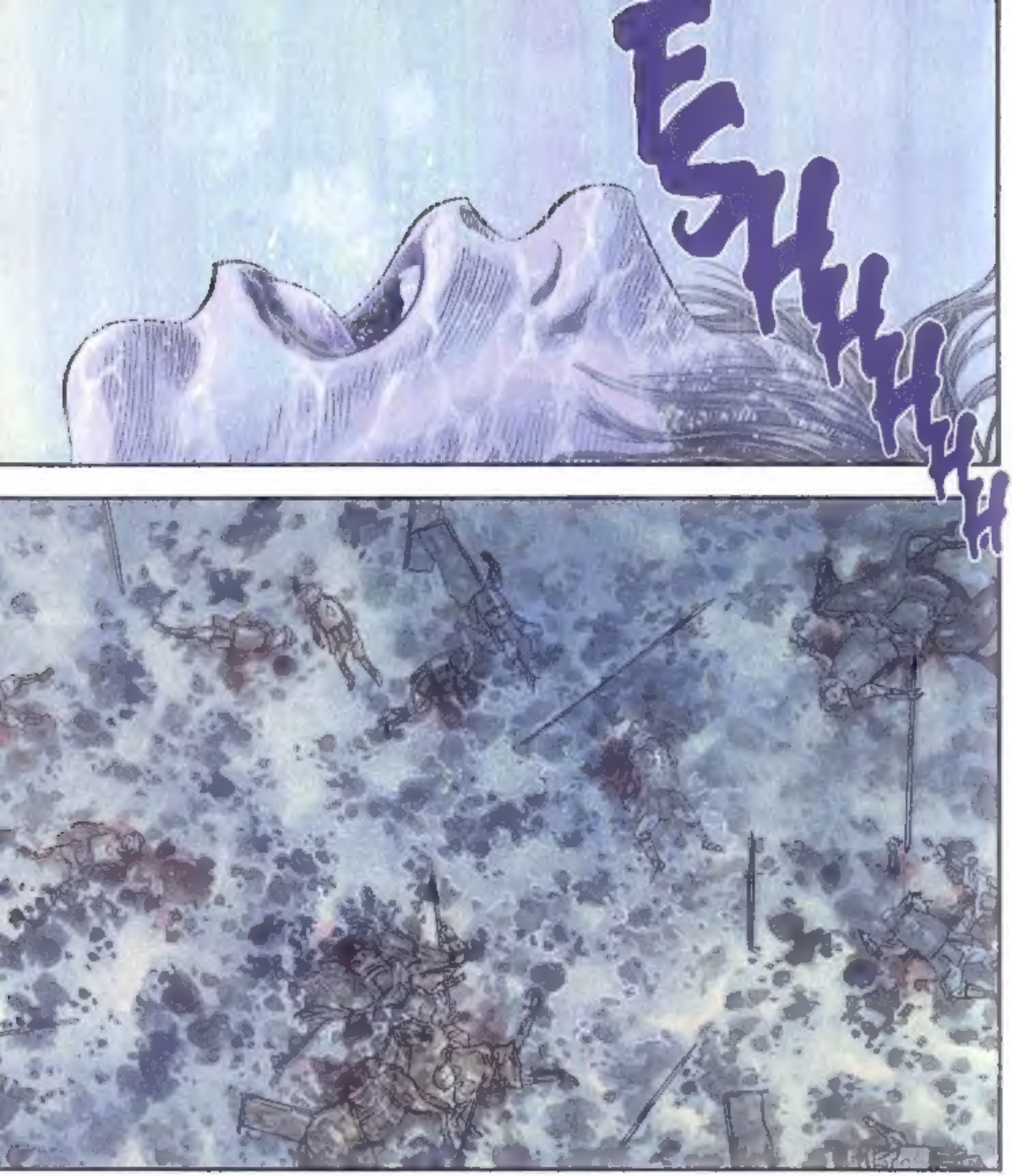
Printed in Canada.

Published by Viz Comics
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, March 2002

Visit us at www.viz.com, www.j-pop.com, www.pulp-mag.com, www.animerica-mag.com.


EHHHHH
GULP GULP

THE BATTLE OF SEKIGAHARA...

...HAS ENDED.

TROMP

TROMP

TROMP

TROMP

Vagabond

vol. 1

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#1 Shinmen Takezō

TRMP

TRMP

TRMP

TRMP

UR...
...

UR...
UR...

...MOTHER...

FORGIVE ME...

URR

URR

I LEFT SAKUSHU...

...TO MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF...

...BUT IT ALL CAME TO NOTHIN'...

...OTSU...!!

FORGIVE ME...

FWOK

!!

REFUGEE HUNTERS!

A SURVIVOR...

URR...

I SURVIVED, TOO...

MATAHACHI.

TAKEZŌ!!

SOBB

YOU SCARED ME FOR KICKS!

SOB

SNIF

SOB

CAN YOU WALK?

FOR KICKS!

WE'RE TAKING OFF.

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HAK
I'M FINISHED.
TAKEZO.
JUST LEAVE ME HERE.
HUF
HUF
I CAN'T WALK ANY-MORE.
ALL WE'VE HAD TO EAT IS GRASS.
SHUFF
THESE PAST FEW DAYS_
SHUFF
HUF
TAKEZO
—
ONCE WE FIND A VIL-LAGE WE'LL GET SOME MEDICINE.
IT WON'T BE LONG.
TUGG
PLOP
DOBBLE
DOBBLE
—
BRAD

IS
THIS...

...ALL
WE
AMOUNT
TO?

...FORGET ABOUT THE ENEMY...

THE ONLY THING WE CUT DOWN WAS THE GRASS TO MAKE ROADS.

WE LEFT SAKUSHŪ TO MAKE NAMES FOR OUR-SELVES...

MAYBE TAKE DOWN A GENERAL OR TWO...

BUT...

AND NOW WE'RE ON THE LOSING SIDE...

WE WERE HANDED MACHETES INSTEAD OF SPEARS...

BRAAP

I'M GOING TO LAST MUCH LONGER...

HUF

HUF

HUF

I DON'T THINK...

I WANT YOU TO...

...TAKE CARE OF OTSU.

TAKEZŌ, IF I DIE...

HUF

HUF

UR

RROA

...

HUF

HUF

A SURVIVOR...

!!

TAKE A LOAD OF THIS.

SPLORSH

GIVE ME A BREAK.

YOU CAN'T FOOL ME TWICE, YOU JERK.

HUF

HUF

HUF HUF

HAD ENOUGH?

ARRGH

FWISH

KRICH

HUH?

!!

HAHH!

FWIP

!!

SHOOM

FLASH

!!

UR...

!

THE REAL THING!

TAKEZO !

REFUGEE HUNTERS!

YOU LITTLE BASTARD !

FWUP

FWUP

...

URR
—
URR
—

...IS STRONG!

THIS KID...

URR

IF YOU'RE GONNA TRY TO KILL ME...

...I'M GONNA KILL YOU.

SWAK

!!!

HAHH!

ARGH!

SKRNCH

!!

GAK!

UH—

—OH.

FAK

KNOCK

FWOOP

OOP!

SHIFF

ARGH!

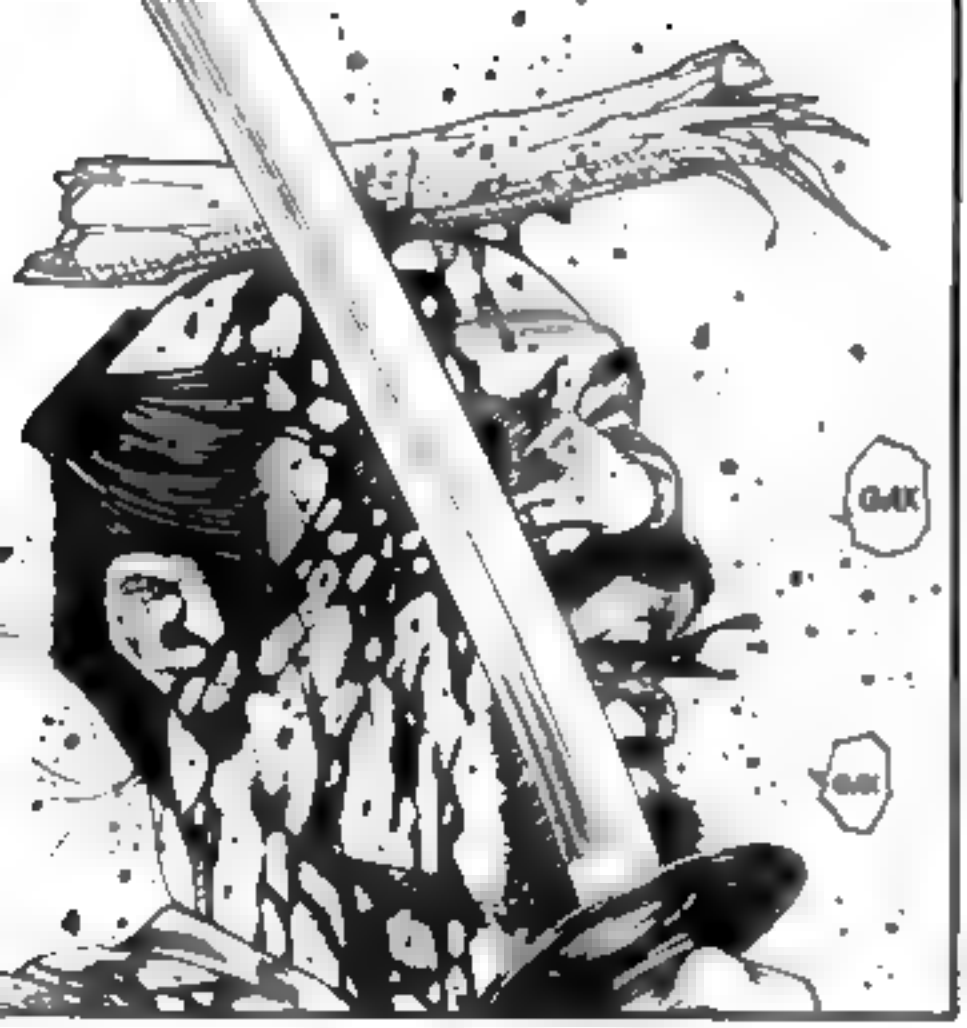
SHIFF

GULP

KRAK

FROSH

チッ


GAK
GAK

OH

ZHOOSH

PLISH
PLISH
PLISH
FWUP
FWUP

AHH...

UHH...

HAK

ALF

ALF

ALF

ALF

ALF

ALF

ALF

ALF

ALF

ALF

ALF

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

THOSE DAMN SAMURAI!

HUF

NO WAY I'M GONNA DIE.

HUF

HUF

HUF

PLISH

PLISH

HUF

HUF

NOT ME...

HUF

PLISH!

I'M...

HUF

HUF

SHINMEN TAKEZŌ!

HUF

...

TUGG

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

NO WAY I'M GONNA DIE!

I'M HON'IDEN MATAHACHI!!

HEY.

FWOOP

WE'RE GONNA MAKE NAMES FOR OUR-SELVES.

YUP.

MATA-HACHI.

HEY...

MATA-HACHI...

HEY...

DING

BRRING

DING

HUF

HUF

HUF

SHUF

SHUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

WHAT'S GOING ON?

NO SIGN OF ANY VILLAGES.

HUF

HUF

THIS AREA'S SPRAWLED WITH CORPSES...

...FROM THE BATTLE TWO DAYS AGO...

HUF

HUF

FOOP

UR

HUF

HUF

HUF

FOOP

HUF

URR

HUF

HUF

HUF

URR

SOME-
THING'S
WRONG
WITH ME
...

...TOO.

BRR.

BRR.

TWITCH

AHHK!

PLISH

DING

SOMEONE'S
THERE.

ANOTHER
BANDIT?

Vagabond

(TAKEZO)

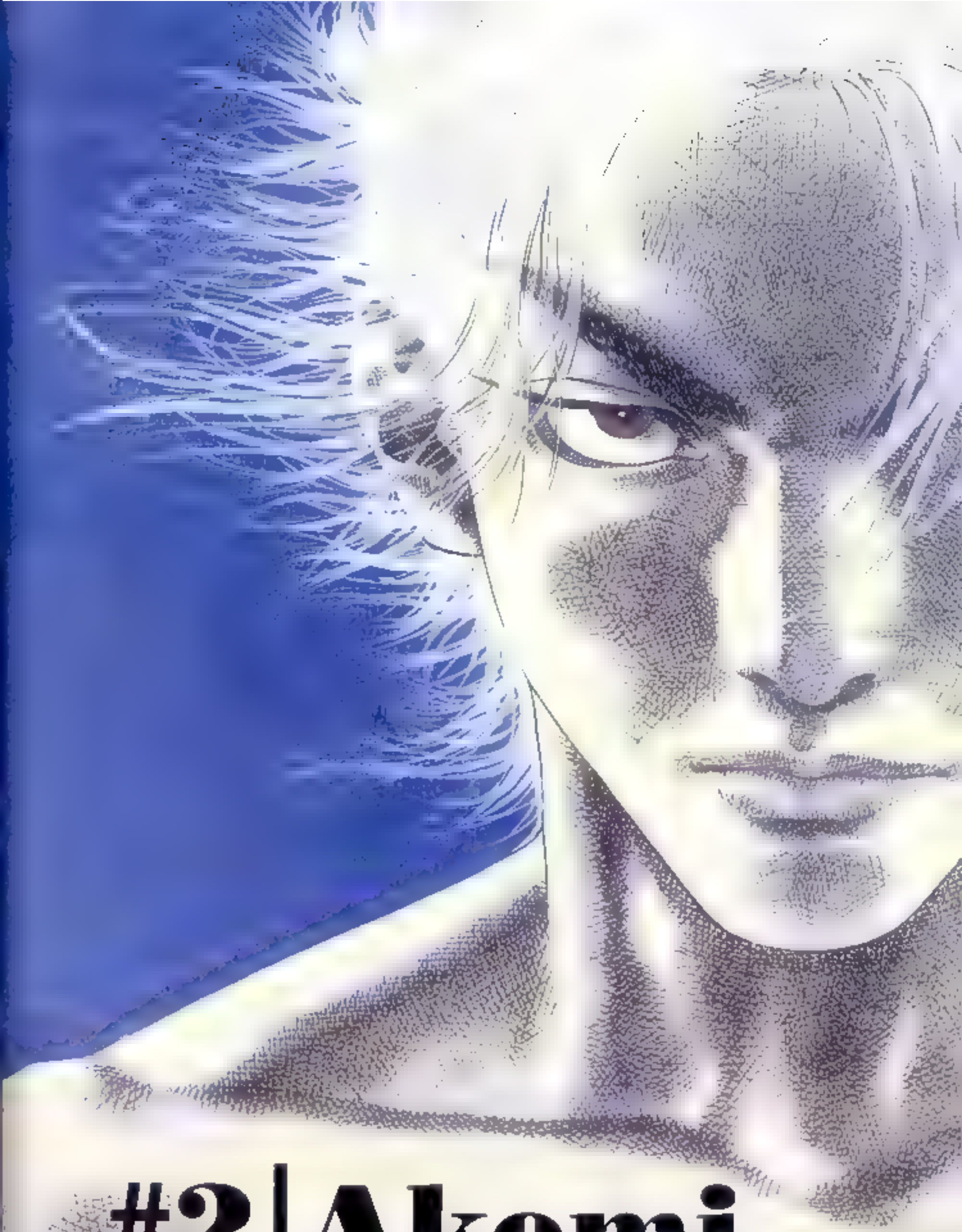
...WE'RE ALIVE.

TAKEZŌ ...

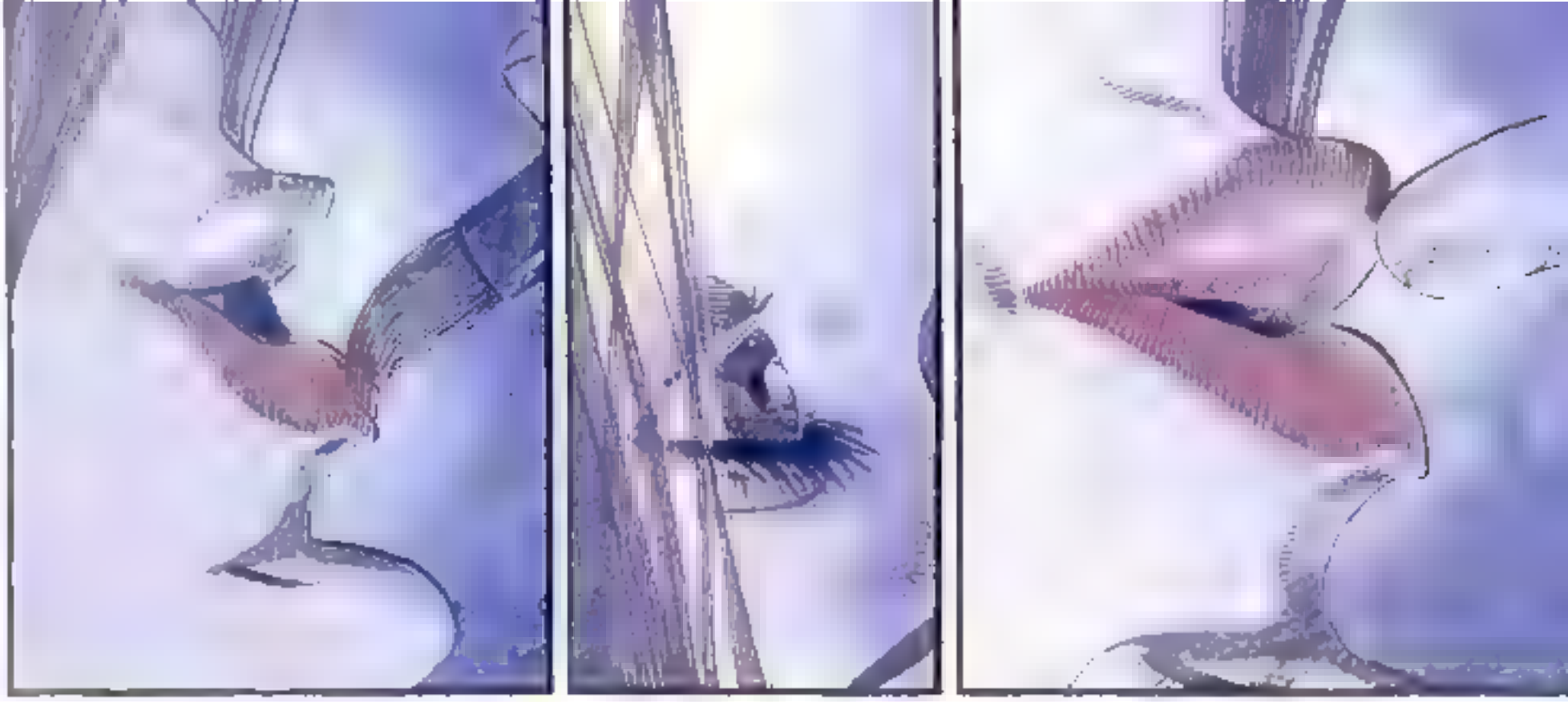
...WHERE ARE WE?

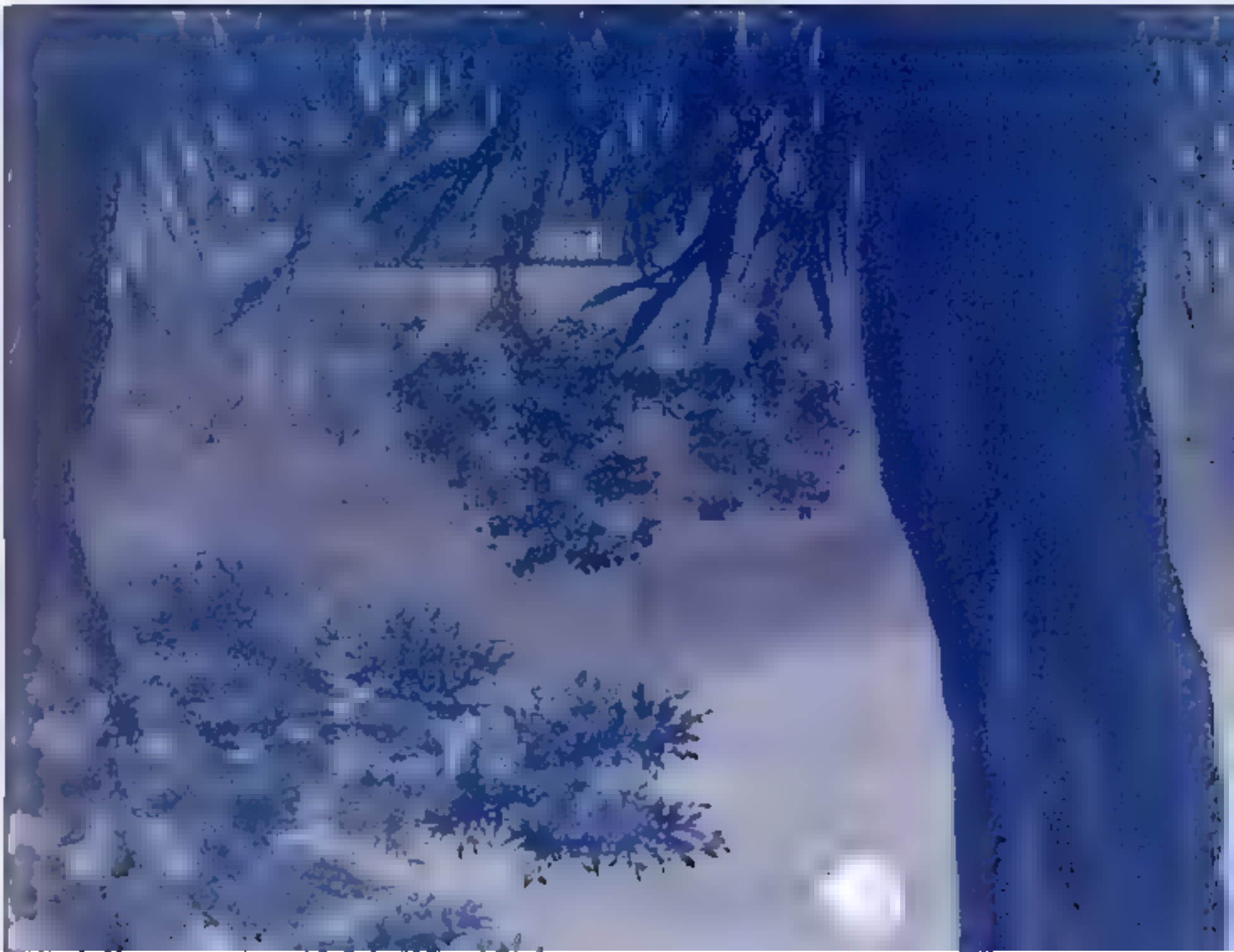
...

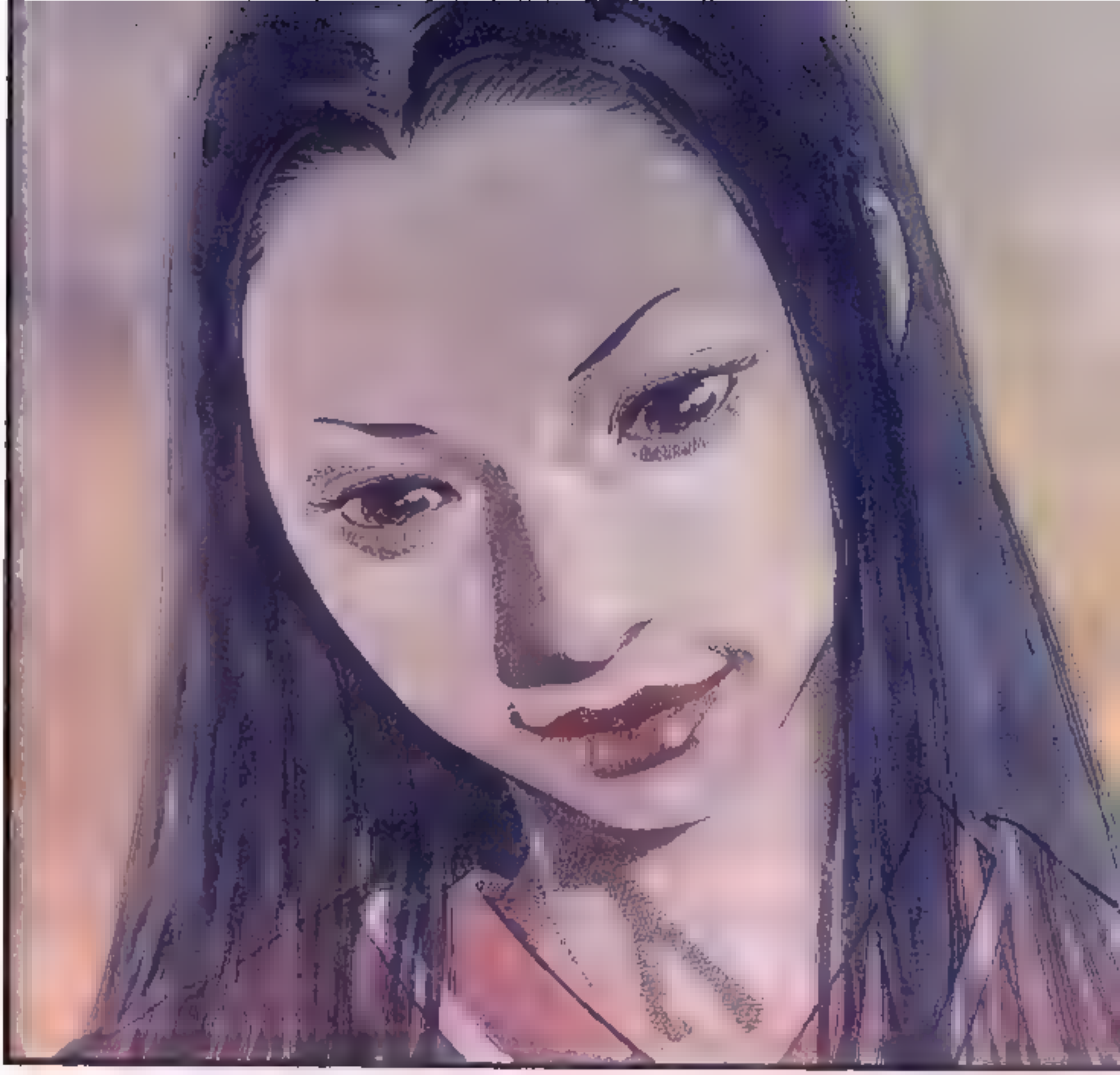
WHAT MATTERS IS THAT...



#2 | Akemi







UR
HUH?

TAKEZŌ.

TAKEZŌ!

WHAT'S WITH THE "UR"!?

...

I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NICE TO HAVE A DRINK TOGETHER.

COME ON, HAVE A DRINK!!

YOU IDIOT!

WE'RE HEALED.

WE'RE GOING, MATAHACHI.

RING

DRRING

WE HAVE TO THANK THEM BEFORE WE LEAVE!!

RING

NOT ONLY DID THEY SAVE US, THEY GAVE US SHELTER FOR DAYS...

AND *WE'RE* FUGITIVES.

HA HA...

YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY AS LONG AS YOU PLEASE, TAKEZO.

I HEARD THAT THEY'RE STILL CRACKING DOWN ON FUGITIVE SOLDIERS...

...BECAUSE THE GENERAL OF THE WEST HASN'T BEEN CAPTURED YET.

WHICH ONE DO YOU PREFER, AKEMI?

ONE OF YOU SHOULD MARRY AKEMI AND STAY HERE FOR GOOD.

...

THERE SHE GOES AGAIN.

RRING

SHE REFUSES TO GROW UP.

MY, YOU'RE CONFIDENT.

OH, NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

I HAVE...

UHH... NO!

I CAN'T!

...

FP

FP

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

FWIP FWIP

CRIMSON MUSH-ROOM.

YOU TRYING TO KILL US...

...TAKEZŌ ?

OH.

FWIP

PANTHER MUSH-ROOM.

POISON-OUS...

LETHAL...

FWIP

...

WHY DON'T *YOU* ASK ME ANY QUESTIONS ?

HOW WE MAKE A LIVING.

HM?

ABOUT WHAT?

WHY I LIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS WITH MY MOTHER.

MY AGE.

WHY I WEAR THESE BELLS.

...

WHERE MY FATHER IS.

MATA-HACHI'S BEEN ASKING YOU QUESTIONS.

I SEE.

RELENT-LESSLY.

EVERY DAY...

...

...

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

...

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

SHUT UP.

KINDA SMALL FOR YOUR AGE.

...

15!!

17.

ANYTHING ELSE?

...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE MORE LIKE 30.

...!!

WHAT WERE YOU DOING...

...

...THAT NIGHT YOU RESCUED US...?

RRING

...IN THAT AREA FULL OF CORPSES?

SWORDS?

...?

FWUDD

KRASH!!

OOPS!

...DOING HERE?

WHAT ARE ALL THESE SWORDS ...

WHAT'S THIS?

!!

THERE'S SO MANY...

YOU FOUND THEM.

OKŌ!

WE'RE THIEVES.

THIEVES...

...ANYTHING WE CAN SELL FOR MONEY.

...AND COLLECT SWORDS, ARMOR...

AFTER EVERY BATTLE WE GO TO THE FIELDS...

WE STRIP THEM OFF THE CORPSES AND THAT'S HOW WE MAKE A LIVING...WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

...WHO'S THAT?

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS ?

HM?

TUP

TUP

TUP

AKEMI...

...

STOP.

...

BRR

BRR

BRR

BRR

SHIVER

THAT'S...

...TSUJIKAZE TENMA.

BRR

SHIVER

BRR

BRR

THE MAN WHO KILLED MY FATHER.

Vagabond

(THIS IS SOME
GOOD STUFF!)

AKEMI!!

YOU TELL OKŌ THAT I'M WARNING HER...!

THE TSUJIKAZE GANG WON'T PUT UP WITH THIS SORT OF CRAP!!

YOU WENT TO SEKIGAHARA AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU!?

#3 Okō

IS THAT ALL OF IT?

HE-Y!!

ALL RIGHT.

THERE'S MORE!!

...ALL OF THIS STOLEN FROM BATTLE-FIELDS.

AMAZING ...

AKEMI !

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER...?

...

THAT SHOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH TO FOOL TENMA.

HM?

WHAT A COLLECTION ...

PHEW

THAT'S MOST OF IT.

...

DID WE FORGET THAT ONE?

...

F

...

HUH?

TAKE IT EASY, TAKEZŌ...

...TAKEZŌ?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE THAT...

!

YUP.

I WANT IT.

I MUST SAY, EVEN JUST AN OAK SWORD...

...MAKES YOU LOOK MORE MANLY.

SMIRK

HA HA

...

SO CAN I HAVE IT?

I WANT SOMETHING TOO!

OH?

I...

...

AND WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE!

TAKEZO!!

...

COME ON, TAKEZŌ.

BE A MAN AND DRINK SOME SAKE.

WE'RE GOING HOME TO THE VILLAGE OF MIYAMOTO IN SAKUSHŪ.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LEAVE, ARE YOU, TAKEZŌ?

I DON'T WANT ANY SAKE.

HMPH!

I HAVE A FIANCÉE BACK HOME.

I'M A STUD.

WELL, I WON'T STOP YOU IF YOU LEAVE BY YOURSELF.

SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU HERE THEN.

HM?

...

SHORR

I SEE...

YOU DO?

OH?

HEY ...

GLUG GLUG GLUG

SHNORR

OH MY!

SHNORR

...

...

HA HA

YOU'RE PATHETIC!

TAKEZO!

SHNORR

FATHER...

FATHER...

MOTHER'S GONE

WHERE'D SHE GO?

YOU'RE NO LONGER TO THINK OF HER...

YOU SISSY...

...AS YOUR MOTHER.

YOU LITTLE BASTARD...

DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK...

YOU'VE GOT THE EYES OF A BEAST.

...

!!

FWOOSH

ZING ZING

URR...

HUH?

TAKEZŌ...

AH.

TAKEZŌ ...

YOU *MUST* KNOW HOW I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT YOU...

WHAT IS IT?

YOU'RE SUCH A BOOR...

CAN'T YOU FEEL IT?

BRR

SHLP

!!

...

HUF

HUF

STOP!

FWOOSH

TAKEZO
...

TMP TMP

!!

TMP TMP TMP TMP

IT'S THE TSUJIKAZE GANG!!

Vagabond

(C'MON, TAKEZO!)

TAKEZŌ
...

EM-
BARRASS
YOU?

HOW
DARE YOU
EMBARRASS
ME LIKE
THIS...

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

OKŌ
...!

THUMP
THUMP

OPEN
UP!!

#4 The Brigand Tsujikaze

NOT YET!

FIND ANYTHING?

OKŌ...

WHERE'D YOU HIDE THE STUFF?!

OKŌ!!

COME ON!!

HOW ABOUT SOME SAKE?

...GET IT YOURSELF.

YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS...

I *HAVE* TO SEARCH YOUR HOUSE.

EVEN BRIGANDS HAVE THEIR CODE.

I HAVEN'T STOLEN ANYTHING.

HAH..

...AND THEN YOU'LL WON'T HAVE TO LIVE LIKE THIS...

YOU'LL BE MINE...

WHAT KIND OF WOMAN ENDS UP WITH HER HUSBAND'S MURDERER?

YOUR FACE...

...MAKES ME WANT TO PUKE.

CHECK THE CEILING.

HEY.

YES SIR!

!!
ZHH
OOP
HEY.
THERE'S A KID HERE.
DAMN

RAPE HER.

...

YOU'RE A FOOL.

OKŌ...

...

...?

BOSS?

DON'T MESS WITH ME

KRRSH

!!

ARGH!

KSD

WHUD

LIR

FWOOSH

THOK THOK THOK THOK

YOU LITTLE TWERP !!

!

KRNCH

TA-

TAKEZO !

ARRGH!

...

PLISH

PLISH

PLISH

PLISH

PTU

THWACK

Vagabond

(RAPE HER!)
(TSUJIKAZE)

...

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

I'M GLAD I LEFT MIYAMOTO ...

...BUT YOU'RE STILL A GENERAL...

YOU MIGHT BE A BRIGAND...

AND I'LL HAVE YOUR HEAD.

SMIRK

#5 Blood Game

HE
YAHHH!
SLSH

ARGH

YAH!

SLASH

AIEEE

YAHHH!

URGH

YAH!

ARGH

LET MY GUARD DOWN...

URR

AIEEE

Tmp

BOSS
!?

!?

!!

ARGH

Tok

YOU COWARD...

HUF

HUF

HUF

HOW CAN YOU RUN AND STILL CALL YOURSELF THE LEADER!?

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

HIS EYES... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE LOOK LIKE THAT

RETREAT FOR NOW... I'LL COME BACK PREPARED

I WAS CARELESS 'CAUSE HE'S JUST A KID

LIKE A DEVIL...

KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK

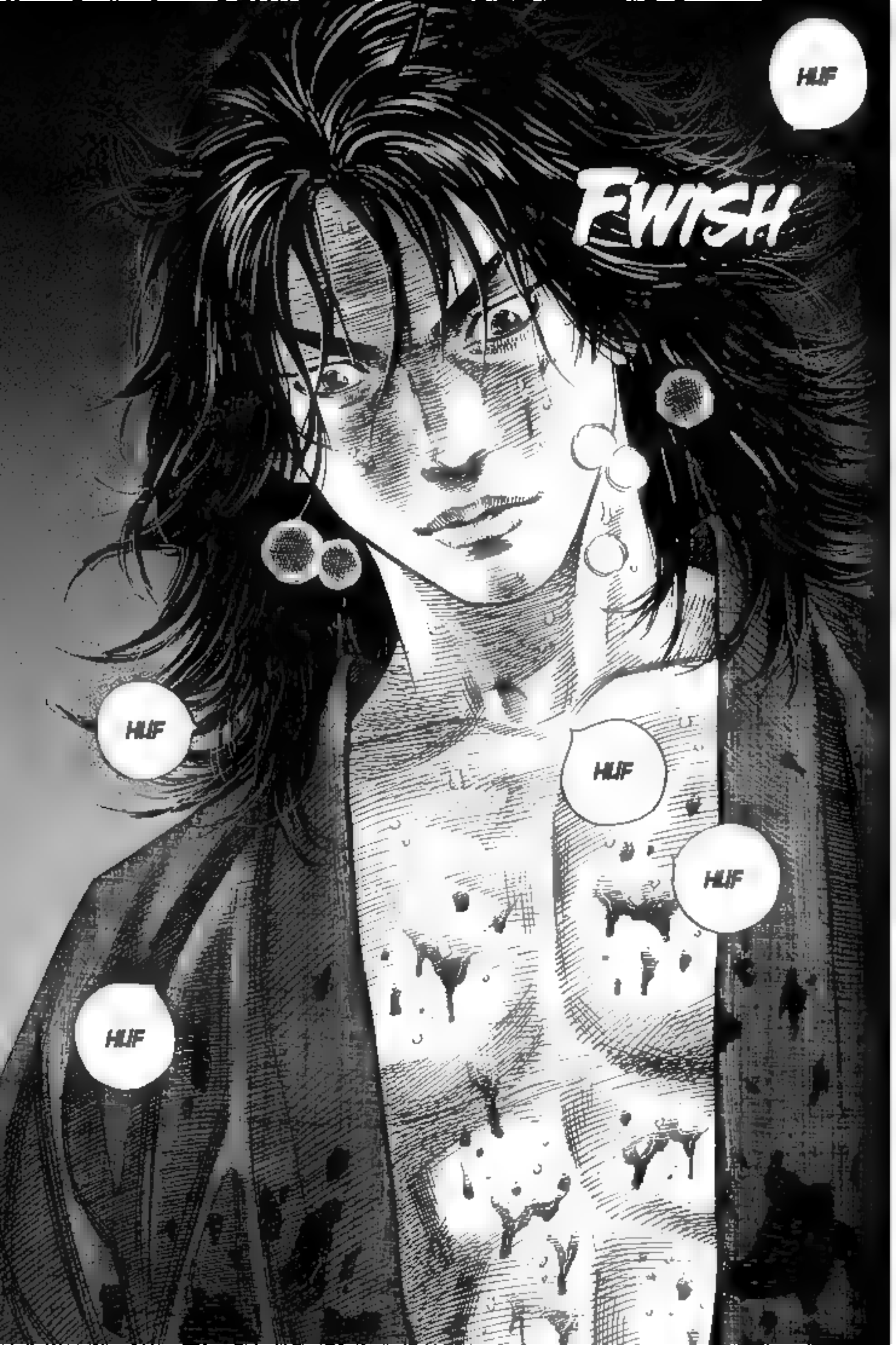
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK

KRAKK

HLIF

HLIF

HLIF


HUF
FWISH
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

TAKEZO
...

FP

HOW WAS THE BOSS?

FREE-BOOTERS ARE WEAKLINGS !

NOTHING SPECIAL.

...FROM THE VILLAGE OF MIYAMOTO IN SAKUSHŪ.

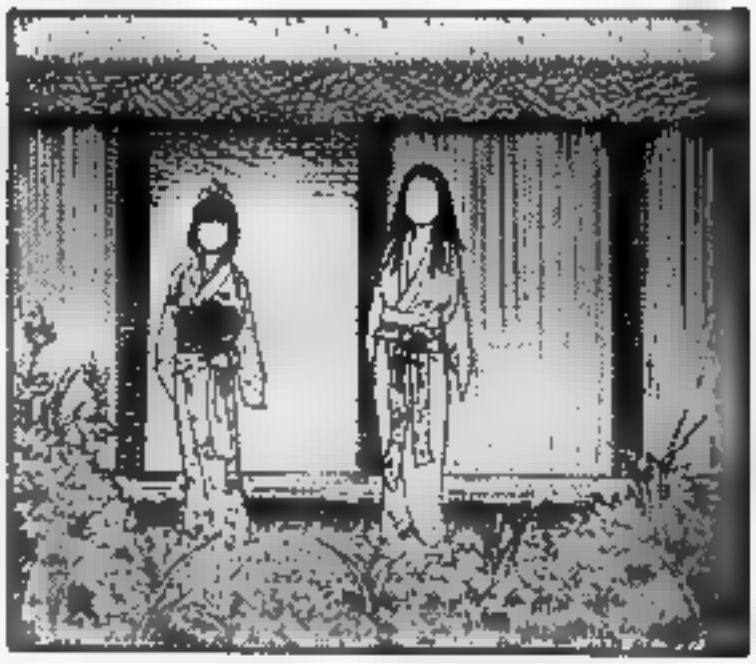
...AND SHINMEN TAKEZŌ...

HON'IDEN MATAHACHI ...

WE'LL TAKE *ANYONE* ON!!

HA HA HA

...PLAYING A GAME OF BLOOD.



THEY'RE LIKE KIDS...

WE'RE LEAVING.

WHAT WILL YOU TWO DO?

HE/H?

YEAHH

WE CUT DOWN FOUR MEN!!

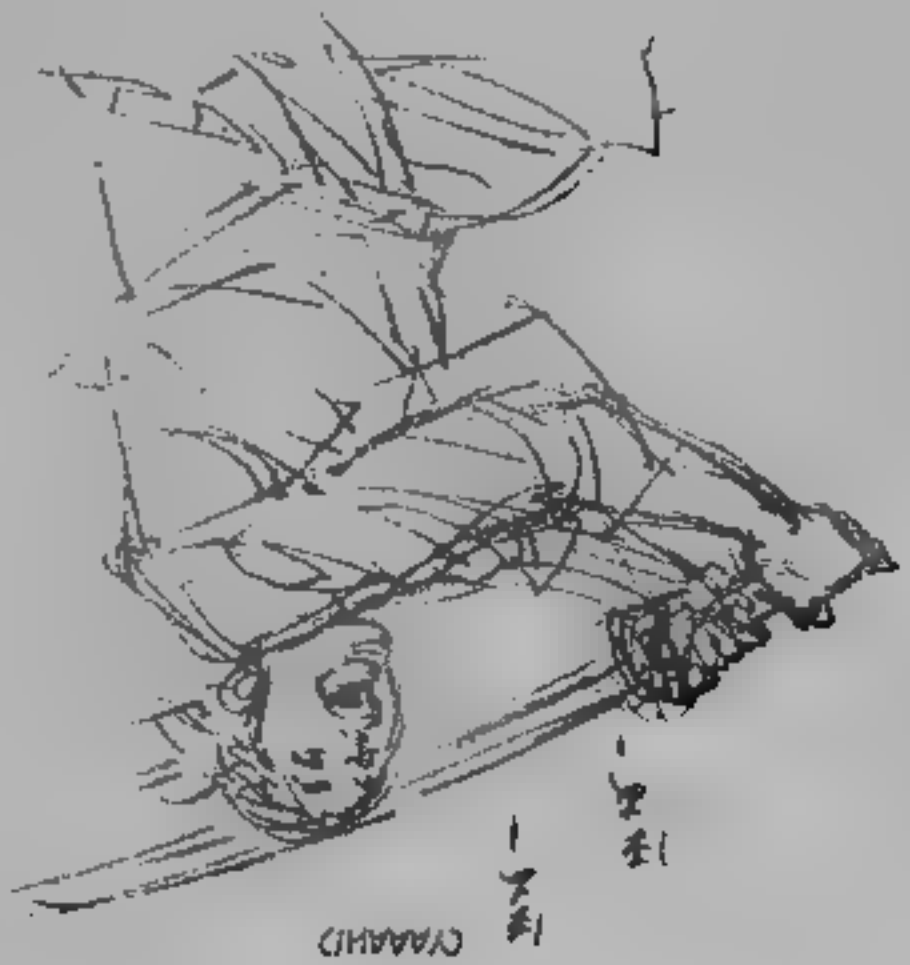
BY WHO?

...TO AVOID GETTING KILLED.

WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE HERE NOW...

TSUJIKAZE KŌHEI.

Vagabond


VAAAHID

HMMM...

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO SLEEP...?

FWEEE

FREEE

SHMP

...

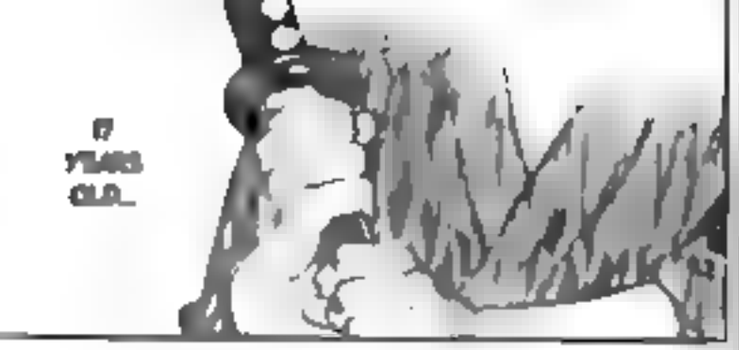
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE...

I KILLED SOMEONE

HMPH... I'LL TAKE 'EM ON!

TSUJIKAZE KOEHI...?

TENMA'S YOUNGER BROTHER?



#6

The Troubles of Hon'iden Matahachi at Seventeen

...

FLIP

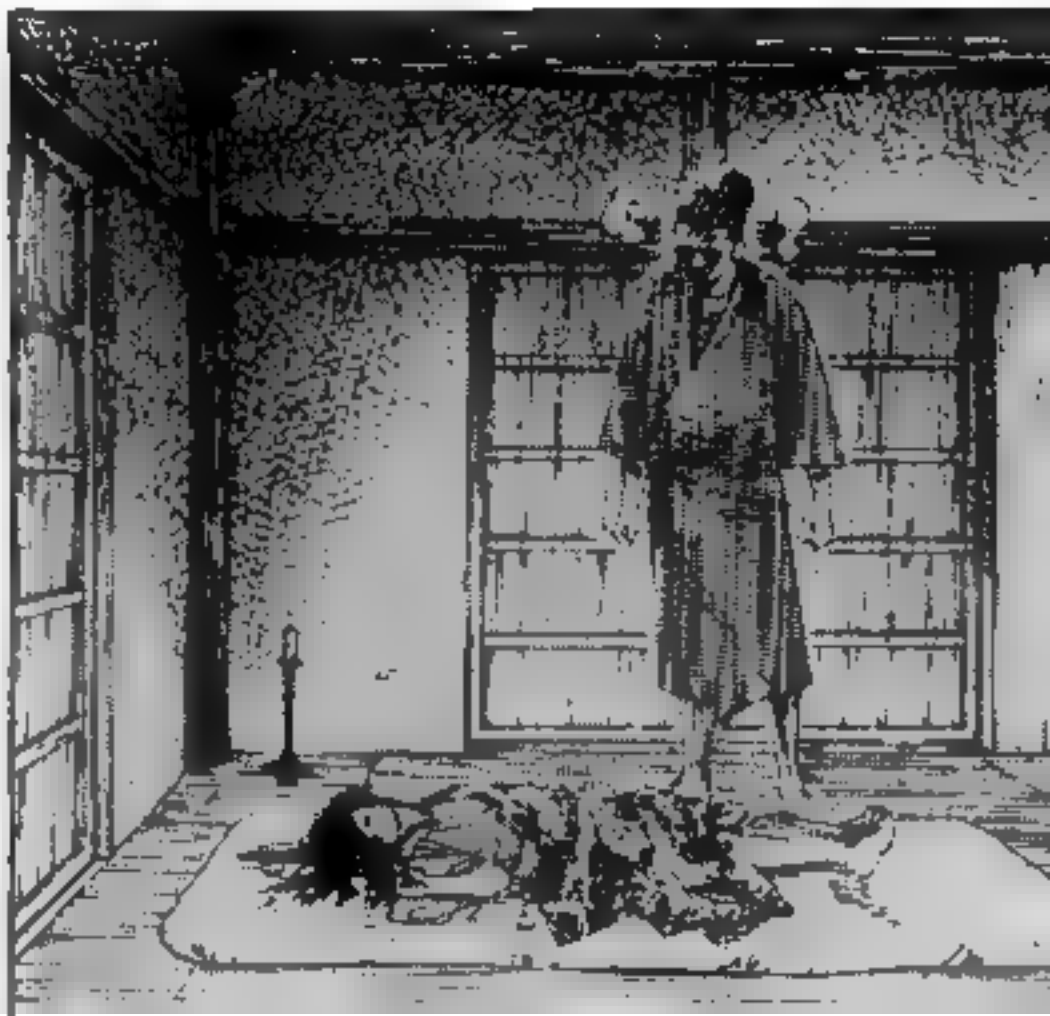
OKO...

OKO

...!!

I WANT YOU.

FOOP



...!!

OK

WHICH ONE ARE YOU?

!!

DOES SHE, MEAN TAKEZO OR ME?

UR... WHICH ONE?

...DOES THAT MEAN SHE WANTS ONE INSTEAD OF THE OTHER...IS THAT IT!?

"WHICH ONE?"...

WHAT AM I THINKING!?

I'M AN IDIOT!! I'M BEING AN IDIOT!!

I'M BEING STUPID...

FOUR OF THE TSUJIKAZE BANDITS!!

I CUT DOWN FOUR MEN!!

...

IT'S ME, TAKEZŌ...

...

HMPH...

FWIP

WHAT DID I JUST SAY!?

WHAT AM I DOING!?

!!

GRB

YOU'RE A BAD BOY.

I THOUGHT YOU HAD A FIANCÉE.

PLISH

I'M SORRY, TAKEZO ...

WHY DID>I USE YOUR NAME...?

...

PLISH

PLISH

...OR IT WON'T COME OUT.

YOU HAVE TO WASH BLOOD OUT IMMEDI ATELY

I'M SORRY...

...OTSU-!!

LET'S GO HOME...

...TODAY.

BACK TO MIYAMOTO.

THUD THUD THUD THUD

THERE MAY ONLY BE TWO OF THEM...

BE CAREFUL!

FUD

...BUT THOSE BRATS KILLED THE BOSS!!

FUD

...HAVE SOME FUN WITH OKO!!

YEAHH

FUD

...WE CAN...

NOW THAT THE BOSS AIN'T AROUND NO MORE...

HEE HEE...

FUD

ME TOO!!

ME TOO!!

I'M FIRST!!

NO, I AM.

I AM!!

ME TOO.

FUD

ME TOO!!

I'VE BEEN WANTING TO DO HER...

...FOR SO LONG!!

YEAH.

MIYA-MOTO VILLAGE ...?

HM?

LIRK

...OTSU.

I MISS...

WHAT?

...YOU SHOULD GO.

YEAH...

...YOU'RE GOING WITH OKŌ AND AKEMI!?

NAH...

HUH

YOU'RE NOT GOING HOME...?

DON'T TELL ME...

I LEFT HOME KNOWING I'D *NEVER* GO BACK.

FROM THIS DAY ON...

THUD THUD THUD

I'M A VAGABOND.

THUD

THUD

AYAHH!

THEY'RE ALREADY HERE...

Vagabond

(IN SOME COUNTRIES THEY HAVE TO ERASE MY NIPPLES...)
(SOMETIMES THEY EVEN WAVE TO ERASE MY BEHIND!)

IT'S TSUJIKAZE'S MEN!!

THEY'RE BACK FOR REVENGE!

!!

YOU STAY HERE.

MOTHER'S BACK AT HOME!

YOU'LL JUST BE IN THE WAY.

WE'LL BRING OKŌ BACK HERE. I PROMISE!

LET'S GO.

!!

I'M GOING, TOO.

YAHH!!

#7 Farewell Takezō

TAKEZŌ
...

I'M GOING TO BE A VAGABOND ...

YOU STAY HERE.

I WANT TO GO WITH YOU...

FWSSH

WAIT, TAKEZŌ!

DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND.

DON'T...

HE'S SO FAST!!

DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE...

!!

YAH TUMP

!!

H-HOW MANY OF THEM ARE THERE?

DO YOU WANT TO DIE!?

ARE YOU CRAZY!?

ARGH
AIEEE
URGH
MY SWORD —!!
—I LEFT IT IN THE HOUSE!!
HUH?!
FWUD FWUD
HEEN HEEN
OKO!
WHERE IS SHE?
SO YOU'RE THE ONE...
THE KID WHO KILLED THE BOSS!!

WE GOTTA KILL HIM OFF BEFORE WORD GETS AROUND!!

DIE!

TENMA LET HIS GUARD DOWN CAUSE HE WAS TOO CRAZY ABOUT OKO.

HOW'D THIS BRAT KILL TSUJIKAZE TENMA, LEADER OF THREE HUNDRED BANDITS?

HE'S PUT A STAIN ON OUR REPUTATION.

HE KILLED THE BOSS...?

HE'S JUST A KID.

PAH!

YOUR SIDE IS WIDE OPEN!!

AIEE

KSHINK

WHMP

URGH

AYAHHH!

WHAT AM I DOING !?

HUH

HUH

WHAT AM I DOING JUST STANDING HERE!?

THUMP

THUMP

GO AND JOIN NIAU!!

JUST TAKE ONE OF THEIR SWORDS!!

THE TSUJIKAZE GANG ARE JUST A BUNCH OF WORMS

SHUFF

SHUFF

SHUFF

THEY'RE FIGHTING!!

ARGH

AIEE

I KILLED FOUR MEN YESTERDAY!!

...WOULL SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN HIS SHADOW!!

COME ON, FACE IT, MATAHACHI!!

IF YOU FALL BEHIND TAKEZŌ NOW...

I'M GOING IN!!

WHY DO I FEEL SO INFERIOR TO MY BEST FRIEND? HE'S THE SAME AGE AND FROM THE SAME VILLAGE AS ME.

ONE!!

TWO!

THEN, ON THE COUNT OF THREE!!

GONNA FIGHT AND KILL THOSE BANDITS... AND RESCUE OKŌ!!

HUH?

MATA-HACHI!

URR...

THREE !!

OKŌ!!

MATA-HACHI!!

HOW'D YOU GET OUT!?

SO YOU'RE SAFE!!

I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE...

!

SO I STEPPED OUT AND THEN THEY CAME BUSTING IN...

IT WAS A CLOSE CALL.

I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT I JUST HAD A BAD FEELING.

BRR

...

SHIVER

BRR

DON'T BE MEAN TO ME...

BRR

BRR

SO EVEN *YOU...* ARE AFRAID?

...

...'CAUSE I KNEW TENMA HAD FEELINGS FOR ME.

I WAS ONLY ABLE TO STAY CALM...

HEY.

WHAT?

WHAT-

WHAT ABOUT TAKEZO?

ARRGH!!

YOU BASTARD!

UH...

FWWSH

KUCHING

YAHH

!!

FWUD

!!

THUNK

FWOOSH
SHHLK

STAY TOGETHER!! HE CAN'T HANDLE ALL OF US!

DON'T RETREAT !!

URR...

WHUD

MATA-HACHI!

OKŌ!

WHERE ARE YOU!?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

AIEEE

EEK

THUNK

IF YOU'RE ALIVE, SAY SOME-THING!!

MATAHACHI!

WHUD

SLASH

ACK

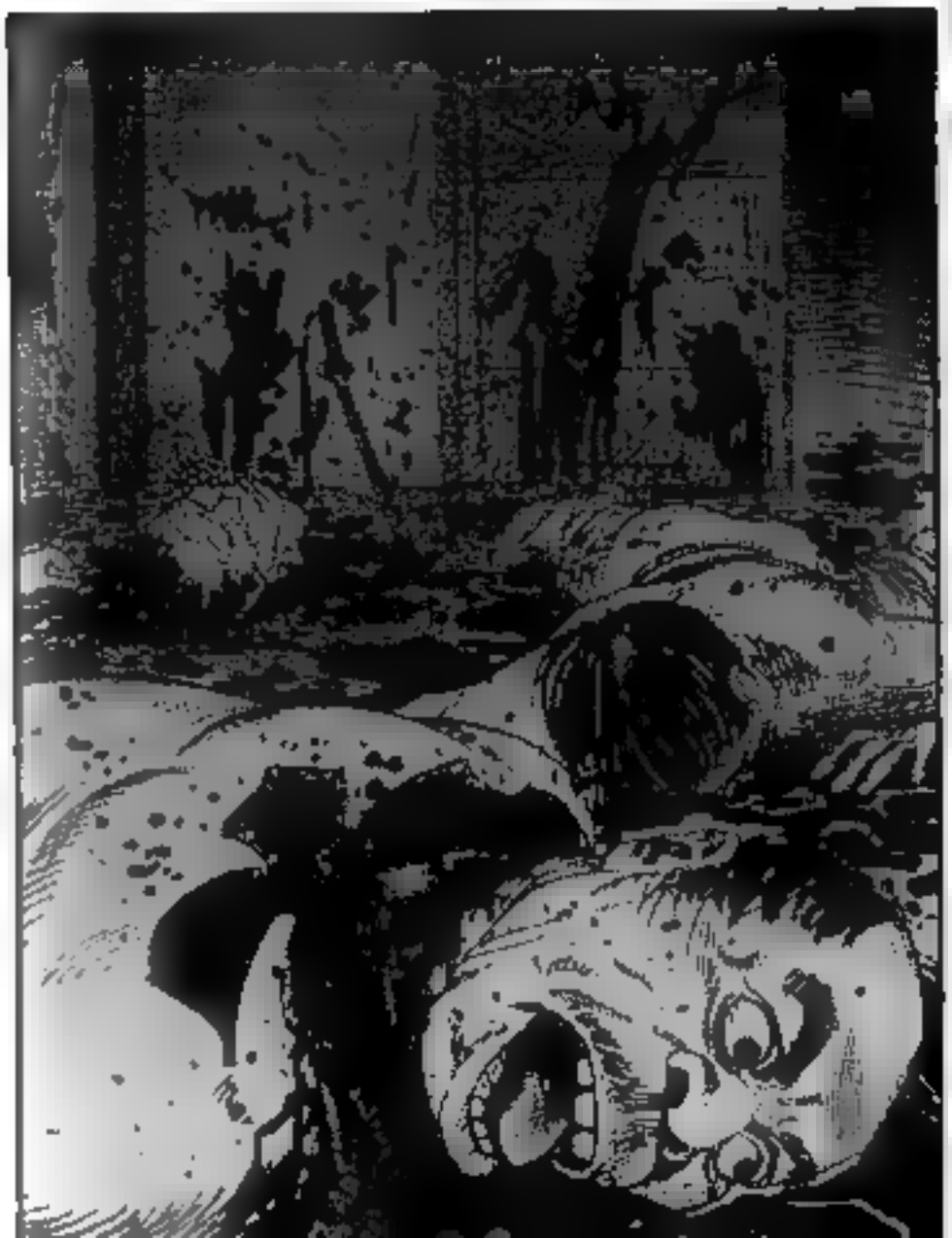
ARRGH!

HUF

HUF

HUFF

HUFF



KAW
KAW

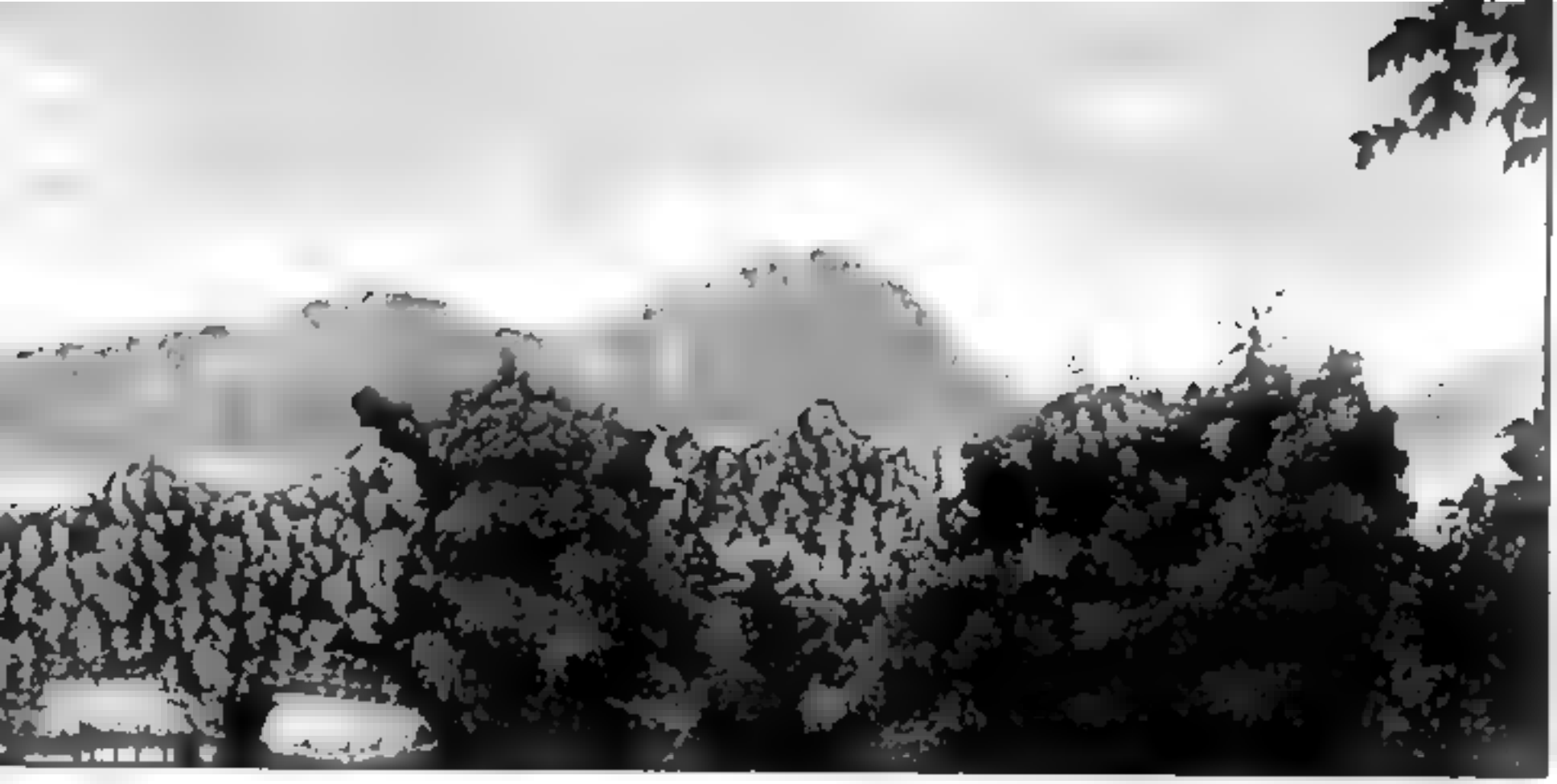
KAW KAW KAW

...

MATAHACHI
...

Vagabond

(THICK AND
STRONG FORM.)



SNIF

GASP!

!!

...MATAHACHI'S STILL ALIVE.

GRANNY... OTSU...

#8 Miyamoto Village

GRANNY!

HUF HUF

HEITA--

ALREADY FINISHED WITH TODAY'S WORK?

SMAK!

!!

FORGET ABOUT WORK! I GOT SOMETHING TO TELL--

HUH?

I SAW...

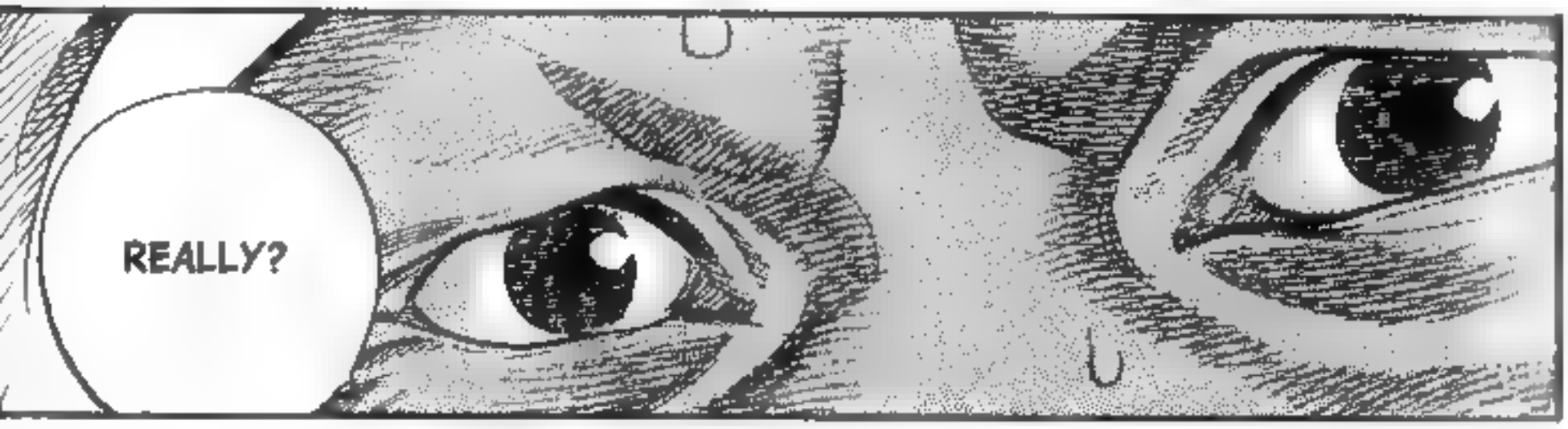
SHINMEN TAKEZO!

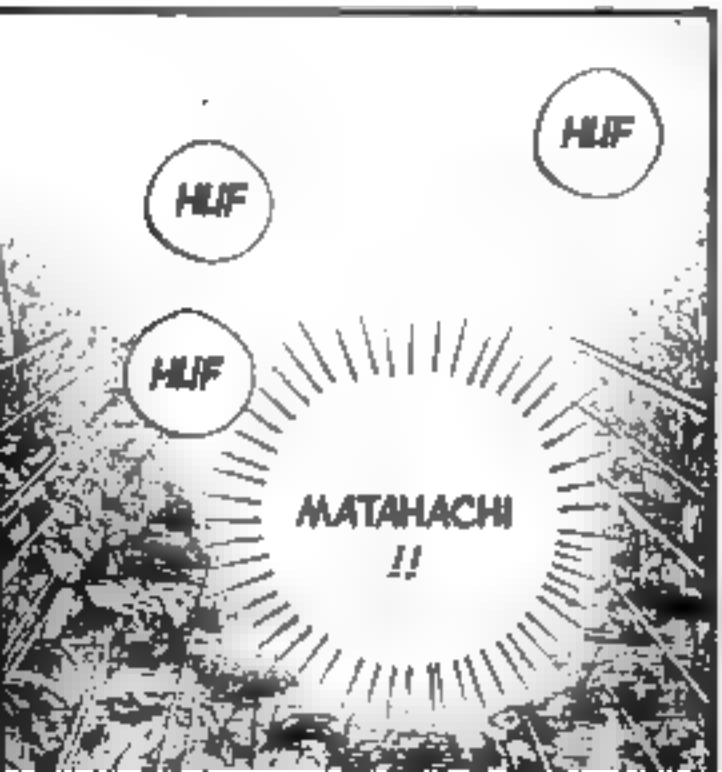
SNIFF

WE, THE HONTEDEN, ARE THE PROUD DESCENDENTS OF HARD WORKERS!

YOU MUSTN'T SULLY OUR REPUTATION!!

I *ASKED* IF YOU'RE DONE WITH TODAY'S WORK!!


REALLY?


HUF
HUF
HUF
MATAHACHI
!!

HUF

HUF

HUF

MATAHACHI !!

NOPE...

NAH...

?

HUF

HUF

HUF

...!!

GRANNY ...

HAS MATAHACHI RETURNED !?

...MAYBE YOU SHOULD GIVE UP ON MATAHACHI...

IT'S BEEN ALMOST A YEAR NOW.

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT ...

WH- WHAT... WAS THAT FOR...

I WAS JUST-

!!

FWAK

THAT MEANS *MY* MATAHACHI MUST BE BACK *TOO!!*

SHINMEN TAKEZŌ WHO WENT OFF TO WAR WITH MATAHACHI HAS COME HOME...!!

HEY! WATCH OUT!

FWISH

FWISH

THWAK

FIND THEM!!

GO FIND THEM!!

WHAT!? SHINMEN TAKEZO...!!

MATAHACHI...

I WOULD *NEVER* GIVE UP ON MATAHACHI!

WHAT *NERVE!*

AS MATAHACHI'S FIANCÉE, OTSŪ SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HIS RETURN. I'LL GO TELL HER THE GOOD NEWS.

PLEASE BE ALIVE...

...HE WOULD HAVE BEEN MARRIED BY NOW. HE WOULD HAVE BEEN A RESPECTABLE HEIR TO THE HONIDEN FAMILY.

IF SHINMEN TAKEZŌ HADN'T DRAGGED HIM OFF TO WAR...

DON'T TELL ME...

...YOU SNUCK BACK HERE *WITHOUT* MATAHACHI!

THAT BASTARD ...!

SHUF

I'LL JUST HAVE TO PAY THE SHINMEN FAMILY A VISIT!!

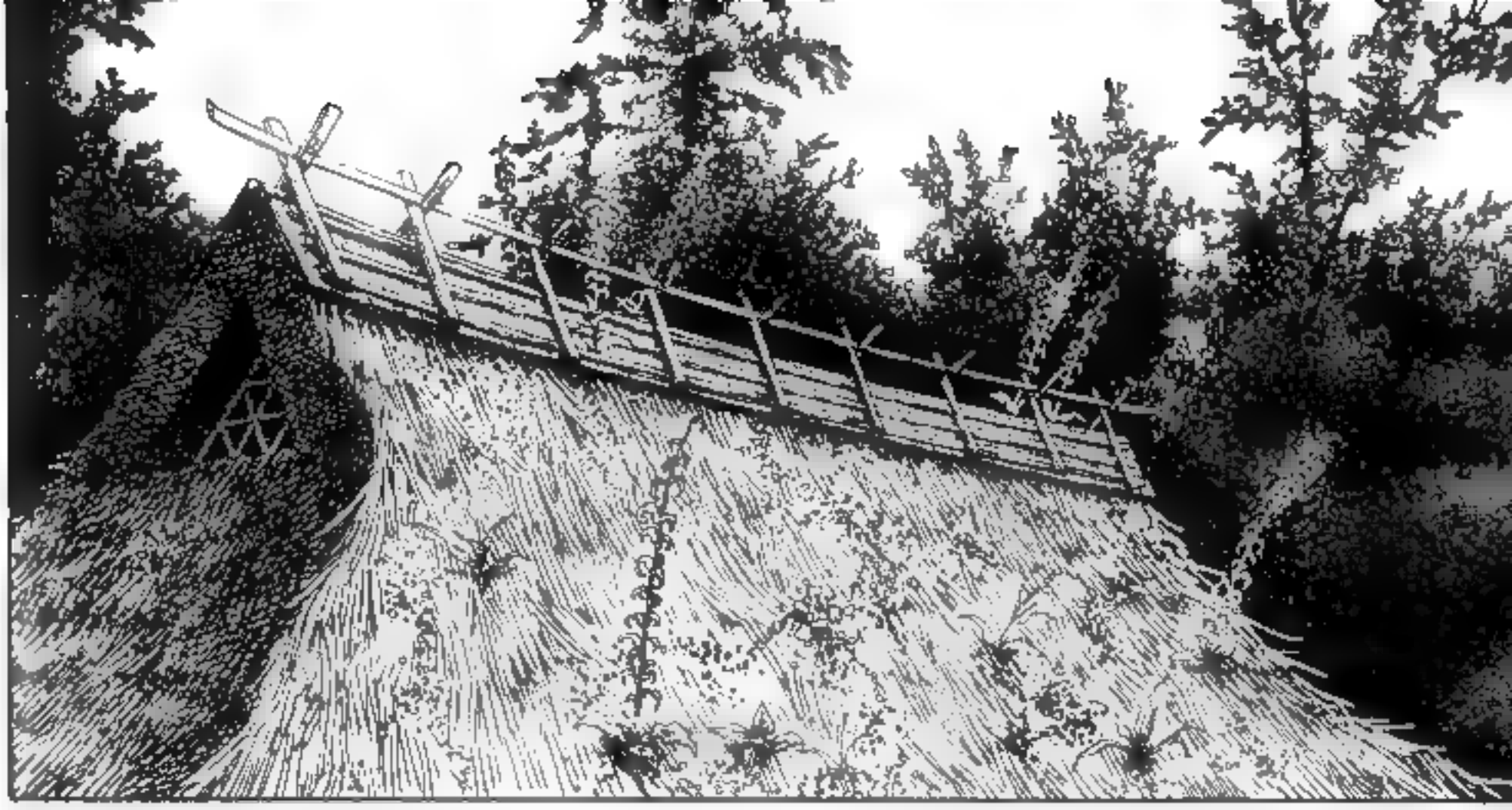
KRICH

KRICH

THOSE SAMURAI DON'T LOOK FAMILIAR ...

KRICH!

KRICH



ARE YOU PART OF THE SHINMEN FAMILY?
WHAT DO YOU WANT, GRANNY!?
LIRK

I'M THE RETIRED HEAD OF THE GENTRY ACROSS THE RIVER.
FIP!!
HEAVENS, NO!!
AND WHAT BRINGS YOU MEN HERE ?
FIP

NOT HERE!!
LOOKS LIKE HE HASN'T COME HOME YET!!
WHERE'S HE HIDING!?
HM...?

YES.

IS--

WE'RE AFTER A MAN NAMED TAKEZO!!

!!

DID HE DO SOMETHING WRONG?

H- HE'S...

...NOT WITH MY SON? HIS NAME IS HONIDEN MATAHACHI.

HM?

NO, HE'S ALONE.

IS HE ALONE?

HE BROKE THROUGH THE GATES AT THE PROVINCE BORDER.

HE'S ALREADY KILLED TWO OF OUR MEN.

WE ALSO KNOW THAT HE WAS ONE OF UKITA'S MEN.

THAT GOOD FOR NOTHING TAKEZO...

YOU MEN STAY HERE...

...JUST IN CASE HE SHOWS UP.

LET'S GO.

THAT TAKEZŌ'S TO BLAME FOR DRAGGING MATAHACHI OFF TO WAR!!

HOW ABOMINABLE!!

HE REALLY *DID* SNEAK BACK HERE BY HIMSELF.

SO YOUR SON FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF SEKIGAHARA?

IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT YOU SHOULD FORGET ABOUT HIM.

HM?

SIR...

WHAT'S THAT?

I DOUBT THAT YOU WILL HAVE AN EASY TIME...

...OF CAPTURING THAT BASTARD, TAKEZŌ.

IF WE DON'T FIND HIM BY DUSK, WE'LL BE STUCK HERE FOR A WHILE.

YEAH ...

KRICH KRICH

I DON'T WANT TO BE STUCK IN THIS VILLAGE.

SHUF

SHUF

SHUF

...

...

...

WILL YOU...

...HEED THE ADVICE OF AN OLD WOMAN?

PERHAPS WE NEED TO BE MORE PATIENT...

WELL HAVE TO SEE. THOUGH...

THAT SHINWEN BASTARD...

YAAH

...

...IS INCREDIBLY STRONG.

HE'S FEROCIOUS.

AND WE'VE BEEN AFTER HIM FOR DAYS...

YOU'RE KIDDING ME.

WHAT ?

AT THE AGE OF THIRTEEN !?

HIS OPPONENT WAS A SEASONED MARTIAL ARTIST.

AND TAKEZŌ BEAT HIM TO A PULP.

I AM NOT.

AT THE AGE OF THIRTEEN ...

...THAT BASTARD KILLED A FULL GROWN MAN.

...WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS.

THAT'S NOT SURPRIS-ING.

IN THE END HE DRAGGED MY DEAR SON OFF TO WAR...

TAKEZŌ'S WICKED WAYS ONLY GOT WORSE.

OUCH.

TUGG

LEND ME YOUR EAR.

...

HM...

...

HOW COULD HE HAVE SURVIVED AND NOT MY MATAHACHI?

...

THE BODY'S STILL WARM!!

TAKEZŌ MUST BE NEARBY!!

A BODY ...?

AHH!

ANOTHER BODY!

TAKEZŌ'S DONE IT AGAIN!

HOW SCARY...

FWICH

ОТЭД.
КРСК

KYAAA!

OVER THERE!!

HEY!!

...

FWICH

URK

UH...

WAS IT *HIM!?*

UH...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

TA--

FWICHH

OVER THERE!!

STOP!!

TAKEZŌ?

COH MATAHACHI!!D

SHIPPOJI TEMPLE

...HE *WILL* CONTINUE TO ELUDE YOUR MEN.

HE'LL FEED ON BIRDS, RABBITS, OR EVEN TREE BARK. WHATEVER IT TAKES...

HE WAS AN ODD CHILD WHO SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME IN THE MOUNTAINS! IN OTHER WORDS...

...HE'S A *BEAST!*

IT'S NO WONDER YOU CAN'T CAPTURE TAKEZÔ.

HMPH.

...HE'S OUT OF HUMAN REACH.

ONCE A BEAST ESCAPES INTO THE MOUNTAINS ...

...

"

PSH

PSH

#9 Fiancée

UHP!!

FWISH

THAT'S ALL I WANT.

RELAY THAT MESSAGE TO GRANNY AND OTSU.

TELL THEM THAT AND I'LL LEAVE THE VILLAGE.

ULP

ULP

MATAHACHI'S STILL ALIVE.

BRR

SHI- SHI- SHIN...

BRR

BRR

TA- TA-...

...

...

...

KRAK

URR-

FWICH

FWICH

...

ARE THEY BEING ORDERED TO?

NOD

...

THEY'RE AFTER *ME*?

...

NOD

WHY ARE THE VILLAGERS HELPING THE SOLDIERS?

I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

NNGH!

THUNK

!!

...MATAHACHI'S STILL ALIVE.

BUT...

TELL GRANNY HONIDEN AND OTSŪ OF SHIPPŌJI TEMPLE...

BUT HE'S NOT COMING BACK TO MIYAMOTO.

GIVE THEM THE MESSAGE.

...WITH A WOMAN.

...I CAN'T SAY HE TOOK OFF...

IT'S TAKEZO!! HE'S OVER HERE!!

TO TO TO

HUF HUF HUF

WHUB !!

GO!!

HUF HUF HUF

SHF

MY NAME IS OSUGI.

...I AM THE MOTHER OF HONTDEN MATA-HACHI WHO, AFTER BEING LURED OFF TO WAR BY THAT DESPICABLE TAKEZŌ...

...HAS NOT RETURNED HOME.

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF...

HMM?

HMM?

AND YOU?

HUH ?

I'M OTSŪ.

MMBL

OTSŪ!

BE MORE POLITE!!

HMM?

HMM?

I CAN'T STAND HIS EYES.

SHE FEELS THE SAME HATRED TOWARDS TAKEZÔ AS I DO!!

SHE IS MY SON'S FIANCÉE.

DON'T YOU, OTSŪ?

OKAY.

NOT "OKAY"!

NOT "UH"!

UH...

SAY, YES!

DON'T YOU?

DON'T YOU!?

...

EVEN THOUGH SHE'S SEVENTEEN, SHE'S NO IDEA HOW THE WORLD WORKS!

PLEASE EXCUSE OTSU. SHE'S AN ORPHAN WHO DIDN'T HAVE ANYONE TO TEACH HER PROPER MANNERS.

YES, MA'AM.

KRIND

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GROW UP IF YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME A BRIDE OF THE HON'IDEN FAMILY!!

MMBL

MMBL

MMBL

MMBL

MMBL

YOU HAVEN'T. DIED, HAVE YOU!?

YOU *MUST* BE ALIVE!!

URR

ZHOOP

OH, MATAHACHI!!

MATAHACHI!?

MATAHACHI...

MATA-HACHI!?

MOTHER
!!

GRANNY...

GRANNY...

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

WHAT!?

OTSŪ, MY DEAR, THIS MAN MATAHACHI ...

...PROBABLY DIED ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.

OTSŪ... WHY DON'T YOU POUR SOME SAKE...

...

...FOR OUR GUEST, CAPTAIN AOKI?

OTSŪ, YOU'RE BEING *RUDE!!*

URK

WITH *ONE* HAND!?

FSH

SURE.

MATA-HACHI'S DEAD.

...OTSŪ...IS ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED INTO THE HONIDEN FAMILY...

BUT...

...SO--

LEAVE.

HUH?

I DON'T NEED *YOUR* COMPANY.

YOU CAN GO NOW, PRIEST.

AM I A FAILURE AS A PRIEST...?

MBLE MBLE

ZHOOP

...

"KEEP DEITIES AT A RESPECTFUL DISTANCE LEST YOU SHOULD OFFEND THEM..."

...

MEN PERISH EASILY IN WAR.

SSIP

FICH

ALL THE MORE SO IF MATAHACHI WAS JUST A FOOT SOLDIER. HIS ONLY WEAPON A SPEAR.

FWIP

EVEN THIS *TAKEZO* WILL EVENTUALLY BE APPREHENDED AND KILLED BY MY MEN.

YOU MUST ACCEPT IT. MATAHACHI'S DEAD.

GLIG

GLIG

...

...SECOND ONLY TO TAKEZO.

BUT MATAHACHI IS *STRONG.*

KYAAA!

OTSU!

TUGG

SO HOW ABOUT IT!? YOU AND ME!!

FWUD

AIEE!!

!?

THUK

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

UH- OH...

THIS ISN'T GOOD.

UH.

WHUD

I'M *MATAHACHI'S* FIANCÉE.

I'M GOING TO BE A BRIDE OF THE HONTDEN FAMILY!!

IT'S ALREADY BEEN DECIDED!!

TNK

OH MATAHACHI... MATAHACHI-!?

YUK! THAT WAS SCARY. AND GROSS.

FORGIVE ME, OTSU.

HEY!!

OTSU.

TUMP TUMP

I CAN'T REMEMBER MATAHACHI'S FACE...

HUH...?

QUIET! I'M TRYING TO REMEMBER!!

FORGIVE ME. OTSU... THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO.

FOR *ME?*

A COURIER DELIVERED THIS TODAY.

A LETTER?

I HELD IT FOR YOU.

MATAHACHI, PLEASE COME HOME *SOON.*

WHY ...?

OTSU.

GRANNY...

I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU...

WHO WOULD SEND A LETTER TO AN ORPHAN LIKE ME?

MATA-
HACHI'S--

!!

FWISH

I'LL
KILL *YOU*
AND THEN
MYSELF!

...!?

I'LL KILL MYSELF AFTER KILLING YOU!!

!?

FWISH!

EEYAAH!

MATAHACHI'S STILL ALIVE!!

THAT'S WHAT I CAME TO TELL YOU

!!

#10 Left Behind

IS IT TRUE, TAKEZO?

DO YOU *SWEAR* IT'S TRUE?

SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO—

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, GRANNY?

...

BUT--

YEAH ...

SOB SOB

...

MATAHACHI ...

SOB

SOB

THEN WHY DIDN'T HE COME BACK HOME?

WHY DIDN'T HE COME BACK!?

DRAGGED HIM OFF?

THIS IS ALL WRONG.

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO DRAGGED HIM OFF. AND *YOU* END UP RETURNING...

GIVE HIM BACK TO ME!!

GIVE MATAHACHI BACK TO ME!!

WHERE IS HE!?

URK

HOW DARE YOU SNEAK BACK HOME ALONE!?

...

THMP

THMP

ARRGH!

THMP

TAKEZŌ!! BRING MATAHACHI BACK HERE TO HIS MOTHER!

BRING HIM HERE!

URR

!?

HE'S LIVING WITH A WOMAN IN ANOTHER PROVINCE.

WHO COULD IT BE...?

To Otsu

To Otsu

He is burdened by thoughts of you.

I am writing as the woman who is now with Mata-hachi.

The current situation is detrimental for everyone involved.

I am asking you...

...to forget Mata-hachi.

Okō

OKŌ?

...MATAHACHI'S FACE.

I'm sorry. Otsū. Just forget about me.

And have a happy life.

Matahachi

I REMEMBER NOW...

WHO'S OKŌ?

SNIF

AAAA!

ARRGH!

!?

CHOMP

ARRGH

ARRGH!

WHAT'S WRONG, OTSŪ!?

AAA!

WHO'S OKŌ!? WHY--!!

THESE ARE MATA-HACHI'S.

YOU CAN WEAR THEM.

COME ON IN.

I'M SO ASHAMED. I LOST CONTROL.

...EVERYONE'S LOOKING FOR YOU

HURRY UP...

...I'M SORRY.

I'M FINE.

BUT YOU MUST BE HUNGRY.

YOU'VE BEEN STUCK IN THE MOUNTAINS FOR SO LONG.

WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY ~?

...

I'M MATA-HACHI'S MOTHER.

UH...

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BATH WHILE I PREPARE YOUR MEAL?

STAY. I'LL MAKE YOU SOMETHING TO EAT.

...YOU *ARE MY* BELOVED SON'S FRIEND.

AFTER ALL...

...!!

SO TAKEZO, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS NOW?

...

IS THE BATH WATER HOT ENOUGH?

PLSH

IT'S FINE...

KRICH

I WANT TO FIND OUT... HOW STRONG I REALLY AM.

...ALL THE MASTER SWORDSMEN RENOWNED THROUGHOUT THE LAND.

I WANT TO CHALLENGE MEN LIKE YAGYŪ AND YOSHIOKA.

KRICH

KRICH

I'M GOING TO JOURNEY ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY...

...TO POLISH MY SKILLS AS A SWORDSMAN.

PLISH

PLISH

TO TRAIN IN THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR. EH? VERY ADMIRABLE.

PUSH

THERE HE IS!!

HA HA

YOU CAN GO NOW.

GOOD WORK, GRANNY.

JUST IN CASE.

YES SIR!

YOU MEN CLOSE OFF ALL ESCAPE PATHS.

ALL RIGHT THEN.

MATA-HACHI IS ALIVE

THAT'S THE ONLY PART I'LL BELIEVE !!

YOU PATHETIC BASTARD.

THINK I'D FALL FOR THOSE LIES?

YOU *LURED* MY SON OFF TO WAR.

YOU *DARE* TO COME BACK WITHOUT HIM...

...THEN YOU HAVE THE *NERVE* TO TELL ME THAT MY MATAHACHI'S IN ANOTHER PROVINCE WITH SOME WOMAN.

YOU'RE FINISHED, YOU BASTARD!!

HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!!

THUNK

HEY!

KRICH

THERE HE IS!!

IT'S ALL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF MIYAMOTO VILLAGE.

OF COURSE, ONCE YOU DO, YOUR HEAD WILL BE CHOPPED OFF.

HEE HEE!

DON'T BOTHER PUTTING UP A FIGHT. IT'S USE-LESS.

JUST TURN YOURSELF IN.

...GRANNY.

SO THIS WAS A TRAP...

YOU'RE A *DEMON!*

THIS VILLAGE DOESN'T NEED ANY TROUBLE-MAKERS!

TAKE HIM!

...!

KRAK

URR

!!

YOU COWARDS.

KRICH

IF YOU'RE GONNA COME AT ME, YOU BETTER BE WILLING TO *KILL* ME...

...IF YOU'RE GONNA TRY TO *KILL* ME...

OF COURSE...

...I'LL KILL YOU FIRST.

MATAHACHI, YOU BASTARD!!

YOU JERK!!

AAAAA

YOU TRAITOR!!

Glossary and Extraneous Background Information

The Battle of Sekigahara (1600): The Warring States or *Sengoku* period (1482-1558) in Japan was a time of chaos and conflict. Central authorities, in the form of the imperial court and the shogunate, had grown increasingly weaker and the land was effectively ruled autonomously by numerous domainal lords (or *daimyo*). Looking to expand their spheres of control, the *daimyo* were constantly at war with each other. One *daimyo*, Oda Nobunaga, set out on a mission to unify Japan by means of conquest. Incredibly successful, by the time of his assassination in 1582, he managed to control approximately one-third of all of Japan. One of Nobunaga's chief generals, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, became Nobunaga's successor to carry on the quest for unification. Through a process of conquest and conciliation, Hideyoshi succeeded in creating an orderly federation amongst the *daimyo* and by 1590, order was restored to Japan under Hideyoshi's rule. Hideyoshi's death in 1598, however, presented the question of succession. Most of the *daimyo* from the domains ■ the west remained loyal to the Toyotomi Clan and its five-year-old heir, Toyotomi Hideyori. Tokugawa Ieyasu, however, leading the major *daimyo* from central and eastern Japan, challenged the Toyotomi clan's leadership. The two sides clashed at the **Battle of Sekigahara** in Mino (located in present day Gifu Prefecture) where the Tokugawa claimed an overwhelming victory. From that point on, the Tokugawa clan would effectively rule Japan for the next 250 years. In the opening of ***Vagabond***, we find Takezô and Matahachi as young survivors on the losing side of the Battle of Sekigahara...

Sakushu: Also known as Mimasaka. The historical name for the area that is now the northern region of modern-day Okayama Prefecture.

Ukita Hideie: (1573-1655) *Daimyo* of Bizen and Mimasaka (located in modern day Okayama Prefecture). One of the leading generals that fought for the Toyotomi Clan at the Battle of Sekigahara.

The Yagyu Clan: Yagyu Muneyoshi Sekishusai (1527-1606) was the founder of the famed Yagyu-Shinkage school of sword fighting. His son Yagyu Munenori (1571-1646) was one of Tokugawa's key general's at the Battle of Sekigahara. Munenori was appointed as the official fencing instructor of the Tokugawa Clan and in 1632 the Yagyu were appointed as the *ometsuke*—responsible for the surveillance of the daimyo. Although the Yagyu clan has been depicted in Kazuo Koike's ***Lone Wolf and Cub*** as the plotters of the downfall of Itto Ogami, the general Japanese popular culture take on the Yagyu Clan is more positive. More specifically, Munenori's son, Yagyu Jubei (1607-1650), is viewed as a wandering hero protecting the people from evil doers.

The Yoshioka Clan: Yoshioka Kempo (dates unknown) was a distinguished warrior during the *Sengoku* period (1482-1558) and the founder of the Yoshioka school of sword fighting. Historically, Kempo's sons are thought to have dueled with Miyamoto Musashi on numerous occasions.

About *Vagabond*

Takehiko Inoue's ***Vagabond***, based on Eiji Yoshikawa's novel ***Musashi***, is a fictional account of the life of Miyamoto Musashi (1584-1645). The historical figure Miyamoto Musashi, author of the philosophical strategy guide ***A Book of Five Rings***, was a master of the sword and was revered as a "sword-saint." He founded the Niten Ichi style of sword fighting which is typified by fighting with both long and short swords at once, holding the long sword with the right hand and the short sword with the left. Musashi was not only a master swordsman but was also a master of the "gentler arts"—he was a master of the *sumi-e* art form and even mastered the arts of metal-working and woodcarving.

About the Author

Takehiko Inoue is the author of the best selling manga ***Slam Dunk***, with over 100 million copies in print worldwide. For his work on ***Vagabond***, Inoue received the 2000 Media Arts award for Manga from the Japanese Ministry of Culture as well as the Kodansha Award for best manga. Inoue has also received the prestigious Tezuka award for his previous works. In addition to his numerous manga titles, Inoue also created the character designs for the PlayStation basketball game, ***One on One***.

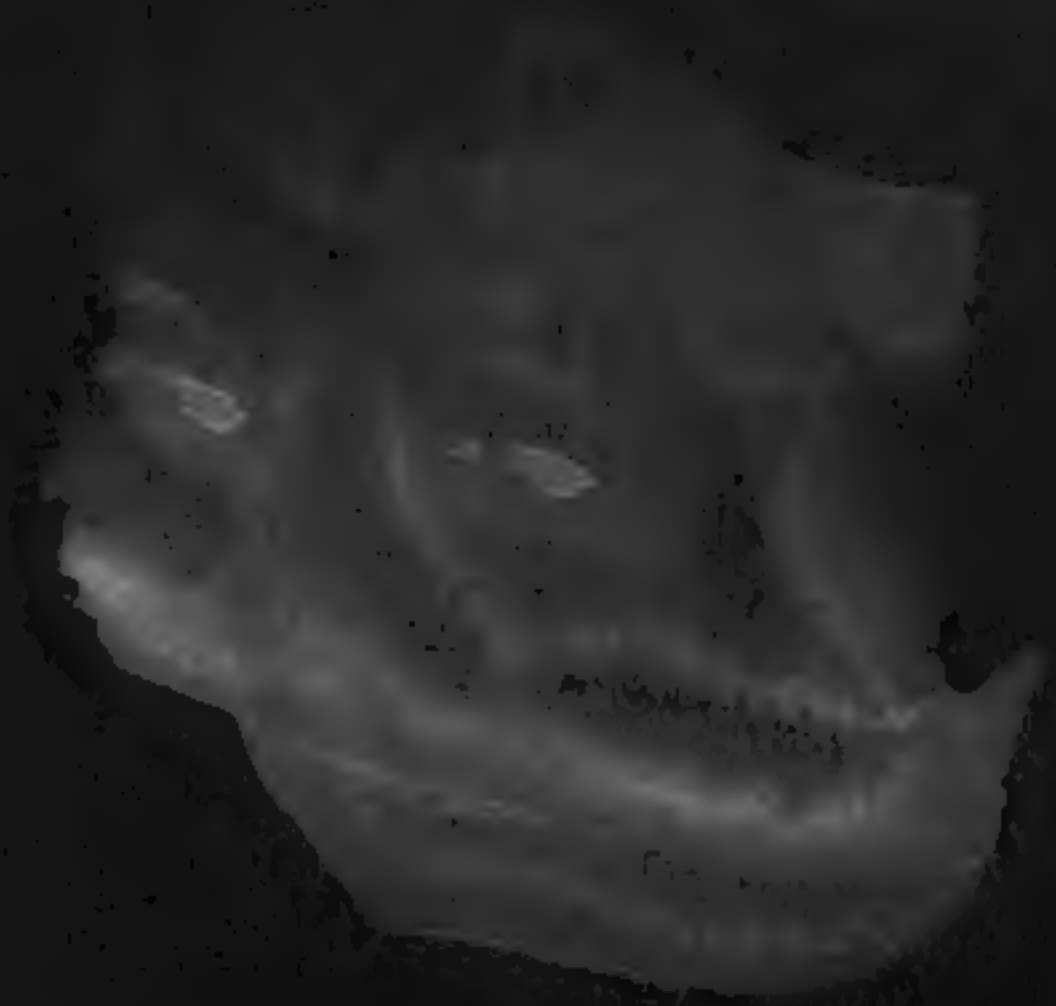
A note on names: The names presented within the context of this comic are presented in the traditional Japanese order—surname, followed by first name. "Miyamoto" is Miyamoto Musashi's last name and "Musashi" is his first name. The name of the creator of ***Vagabond***, however, has been presented first name first, last name second. "Takehiko" is the author's first name and "Inoue" is his last name.

This is the LAST page of this comic!

Vagabond has been printed to read from **right** to **left** in its original Japanese format—presenting Takehiko Inoue's dynamic artwork the way it was meant to be seen!

When most Japanese comics are published in English, a mirror image of the original artwork is printed in order to accommodate the left to right reading orientation of English. For this reason, errors in continuity occasionally occur and characters who were originally right-handed suddenly become left-handed. In order to present manga in its purest form, ***Vagabond*** is being printed to read from right to left. This way, kimono are worn with the left side over the right and the samurai's long and short swords are carried on the **left** side the way they were traditionally worn.

To properly enjoy ***Vagabond***, start from the other end of this comic and read from right to left.



This beautifully drawn series has incredible action, a hint of romance, and a strong core of Japanese history...this book now has the possibility of taking off like a rocket with the American audience.
—Troy Brownfield, Shotgun Reviews

Shinmen Takezo is destined to become the legendary sword-saint, Miyamoto Musashi—perhaps the most renowned samurai of all time. For now, Takezo is a cold-hearted killer, who will take on anyone in mortal combat to make a name for himself. This is the journey of a wild young brute who strives to reach enlightenment by way of the sword—fighting on the edge of death.

VIZ COMICS $12.95 USA/$20.95 CAN

51295

9 781591 160342

ISBN 1-59116-034-0

7 82009 08903 2